

# ARTICLES<sup>k</sup>

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF,

AND

ANSWERED UNTO

BY

The Church-Wardens and Sworn-Men

In the PRIMARY

## VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God, *Edward*  
Lord Bishop of Worcester, A. D. 1690.

*Stillingfleet*

LONDON:

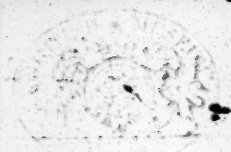
Printed in the Year 1690.



*The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred  
to the Church-Wardens of every Parish.*

**Y**OU shall Swear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Church-Warden within your Parish, and shall diligently enquire, and true Presentment make of such things and Persons as you know to be presentable by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm.

*So help you God.*





*Articles to be inquired of, and answered un-  
to by the Church-wardens, or Side-men  
in the Diocess of Worcester.*

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TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Orna-  
ments and Furniture thereunto belonging.*

**I**S your Parish Church, or Chappel, in good and suf- Can. 85.  
ficient repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor  
and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or  
Steeple been demolished or pulled down? What  
part, and how long since? Or any of the Lead,  
Timber, or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any  
way imbezelled, or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a Cover? Doth Can. 81,  
the Minister baptize publickly in the Font? Is there a decent 82.  
Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and  
another Covering of White Linnen to be spread thereon, at  
the time of the Administration of the Lord's Supper? And have  
you a fair Chalice or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and  
one or more Flagons? Have they been profaned by common use?

4. Have you besides a convenient Seat or Pew, wherein to Can. 83.  
read Divine Service, a Pulpit, with a decent Cloth or Cushion, 80.  
a large Bible of the last Translation, and a Book of Common-  
Prayer lately published, *Anno 1662.* the Book of Homilies set *Stat.*



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*Can.* 99. forth by Authority, and a Printed Table of the Degrees,  
58. wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a Book of Canons and  
Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and decent Surplice and Hood?

*Can.* 70. 5. Have you a Register-Book in Parchment of Christnings,  
Burials and Marriages? And is the same kept in all points,  
according to the Ancient use, and duly sent into the Bishops  
Registry?

6. Have you a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts?  
As also, a Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the  
said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

### T I T. II.

#### *Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.*

1. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently  
kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or  
made any Door in it? And how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the  
Out-houses in good repair? Have any of them been defaced  
or pulled down without Licence? Have there been any encroach-  
ments made upon the same? or any of the Antient marks or  
bounds removed or changed? And by whom?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-  
land, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belong-  
*Can.* 87. ing to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such  
Pensions, Rate-Tythes, and portions of Tythes, or other  
yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as  
belong thereunto? Have any of the same been with-held  
from your Minister? And by whom, as you know, or have  
heard? And is your Terrier laid up in the Bishops Registry?

### T I T. III.

#### *Concerning Ministers.*

*Act of U-* 1. **I**S your Minister, Vicar or Curate in Holy Orders, and  
*reform.* duly qualified according to the Laws of this Realm?  
*Can.* 48. Hath

## Articles of Visitation.

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Hath your Minister been legally inducted? Hath he read the 39 Articles within the time appointed by Law, and declared his Assent thereto? Is he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Symoniacal Compact? Is he licensed by the Bishop?

*Stat. 13.*  
*Can. 48.*

2. Hath your Minister any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly Resident among you, and doth he preach every Lord's Day, unless hindered by Sickness or reasonable Absence? How long in any one Year hath he been absent from his Cure? Who supplies the Cure, during his Absence? Are all Offices of the Church duly performed? Doth he serve any other Cure besides? Hath he a Competent Allowance?

*Can. 45.*  
*47, 48.*

3. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer: And all such Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, so far as you have observed?

*Act of U.*  
*niform.*

4. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices in your Church and Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

*Can. 58.*

5. Doth your Minister Celebrate the Lord's Supper so often in every year, that every Parishioner may receive thrice at least? And doth he keep back those who ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop?

*Can. 21,*

*22, 56.*

*Rubr. be-*

*fore Com-*

*munion.*

6. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed to be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England?

*Can. 26.*

*Can. 59.*

*Rubr. be-*

*fore Con-*

*firm.*

7. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Person grown up, through your Ministers default, yet remaining Unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he use to Baptize any without God-fathers, and God-mothers?

*Can. 61.*

*Can. 66.*

*Can. 67.*

*68, 69.*

8. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in Private Houses; or such as being under Age, have not the Consent of their Parents or Guardians; or without Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church; or at a-

*Can. 29.*

*Can. 62,*

*63.*

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ny other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License so to do?

*Can. 64.* 9. Doth your Minister declare to the People every Sunday, at the time appointed in the Communion Book, the several Holy-days and Fasting days in the Week following? And is he an Example to others in observing them?

*Can. 74,* 10. Is your Minister a Man of a Studious, Sober, Peaceable  
75. and Exemplary Life? Is he Grave, Modest and Regular in his outward Demeanour and Apparel? Is he in any kind whatsoever disorderly and scandalous?

## T I T. IV.

### *Concerning the Parishioners.*

*Ca. 109.* 1. **I**S there any Person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blaphemers of God's Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or fowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

*Can. 18.* 2. Doth every Parishioner in your Church or Chappel as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, kneeling at Prayers, and at the Sacrament, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

3. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God?

*Rubr.* 4. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter-*  
*Can. 85.* Offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

5. Did any by their last Wills or Testaments leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of Poor, or to any other Pious and Charitable purposes? Which have been mispent or imbezelled, and by whom?



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6. Are there any Persons living in your Parish, who under pretence of Liberty of Conscience, wholly neglect all publick worship of God, or do not Assemble together in such way and manner as is required by the late Act?

7. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect coming to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it? *Ca. 112.*

8. Are there any living within your Parish as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully Married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law do not co-habit together? *Can. 99.*

9. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish who having the presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simoniack Compact or Gain thereby, either in Money, or by Reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

10. Have any Pews or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in the Church? Have any occasioned Riot, Clamour or Disturbance in the Church at any time?

### T I T. V.

#### *Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.*

1. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a Parish-Clerk, Aged Twenty One Years at the least? *Can. 91.* Is he of honest life and conversation? And sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duly paid unto him? Or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth your Sexton diligently do his duty, in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service?

T I T.

## T I T. VI.

*Concerning Hospitals, School-Masters,  
and Schools.*

1. **W**HAT Hospital, Alms-House, or Free-School hath been founded in your Parish? Are they so order'd in their Revenue and use, as the Founders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?
- Can. 77.* 2. What School-Master private or publick is there in your  
*78. 79.* Parish? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Doth he teach his Scholars in the Church Catechism? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holydays, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?
3. Do any in your Parish practise Physick, Chyrurgery or  
*3 Hen. 11.* Midwifry, without License from the Ordinary?

## T I T. VII.

*Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.*

- Can. 89.* 1. **A**RE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?
- Ibid.* 2. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?
3. You are further to understand, That according to your  
*Rubr. at Commun.* Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

F I N I S.



